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**From:** Mallory, Brenda  
**Sent:** Mon 7/8/2013 9:11:19 PM  
**Subject:** FW: Message guidance on Gasland 2/fracking

FYI

**From:** Reynolds, Thomas  
**Sent:** Monday, July 08, 2013 4:18 PM  
**To:** Acting Administrator; Assistant Administrators; PADs and Alternates; Regional Administrators  
**Cc:** Paulson, Glenn; Hanley, Mary; KeyesFleming, Gwen; Fritz, Matthew; Johnson, Alisha; Behringer, Caroline; Bloomgren, David  
**Subject:** Message guidance on Gasland 2/fracking

Below is guidance to use regarding any inquiries as a result of the Gasland 2 movie premiere tonight on HBO. Please let me know if you have additional questions.

#### **General Response Statement**

As the President and EPA have made clear, natural gas has a key role to play in our all of the above approach to energy. This important domestic fuel source has extensive economic, energy security, and environmental benefits. EPA is in the process of conducting a major research program on the relationship between hydraulic fracturing and drinking water in different areas of the country and will release a draft report in late 2014. We will look to the results of that national program as the basis for scientific conclusions and recommendations on hydraulic fracturing. In the meantime we will continue to work with states, industry and stakeholders to ensure public and environmental safety remain a priority.

#### **General background**

##### **On Dimock (all approved and from press release dated July 25, 2012)**

EPA visited Dimock, PA in late 2011, surveyed residents regarding their private wells and reviewed hundreds of pages of drinking water data supplied to the Agency by Dimock residents, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection and Cabot. Because data for some homes showed elevated contaminant levels and several residents expressed concern about their drinking water, EPA determined that well sampling was necessary to gather additional data and evaluate whether residents had access to safe drinking water.

Between January and June 2012, EPA sampled private drinking water wells serving 64 homes, including two rounds of sampling at four wells where EPA was delivering temporary water supplies as a precautionary step in response to prior data indicating the well water contained levels of contaminants that pose a health concern. At one of those wells EPA did find an elevated level of manganese in an untreated well water. The two residences serviced by the well each have water treatment systems that can reduce manganese to levels that do not present a health concern.

As a result of the two rounds of sampling at these four wells, EPA has determined that it is no longer necessary to

provide residents with alternative water. EPA is working with residents on the schedule to disconnect the alternate water sources provided by EPA.

Overall during the sampling in Dimock, EPA found hazardous substances, specifically arsenic, barium or manganese, all of which are also naturally occurring substances, in well water at five homes at levels that could present a health concern. In all cases the residents have now or will have their own treatment systems that can reduce concentrations of those hazardous substances to acceptable levels at the tap. EPA has provided the residents with all of their sampling results and has no further plans to conduct additional drinking water sampling in Dimock.

### **On Range Resources**

**On decision to resolve the lawsuits:** Resolving the lawsuits with Range Resources allowed EPA to shift the agency's focus in this case away from litigation and toward a joint effort on the science and safety of energy extraction. Range committed to sharing scientific data with EPA and to conducting further well monitoring in the area.

**On the Thyne Report:** "During the litigation process, EPA considers information from a number of sources. EPA does not discuss such case-support information that informs our enforcement decisions."

### **On Pavillion**

The State of Wyoming is further investigating drinking water quality in the rural area east of Pavillion, Wyoming with EPA support. The Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality (WDEQ) and the Wyoming Oil and Gas Conservation Commission (WOGCC) will lead the scientific investigation and will seek to address water quality concerns by evaluating the water quality of certain domestic water wells, the integrity of certain oil and gas wells, and historic pits in the Pavillion area. The State of Wyoming intends to conclude its investigation and release a final report by September 30, 2014. The State's investigation seeks to clarify water quality concerns and assess the need for any further action to protect drinking water resources. Wyoming will continue its work to assure residents have a clean source of drinking water available.

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